

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15324 131754Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 EB-07 SAM-01 /072 W

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R 131708Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0370

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

JUNE 4-7

REF: (A) PARIS 15135 (B) PARIS 15017

SUMMARY: GOF, AND SPECIFICALLY GISCARD D'ESTAING,
WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY COSTA GOMEZ AND MELO ANTUNES. PARIS
HAS NOT WRITTEN OFF PORTUGAL, ALTHOUGH IT IS REALISTIC
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 15324 131754Z

ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WHICH WELL-INTENTIONED PORTUGUESE

LEADERS FACE.

1. QUAI PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER MISS DEBENEST CONFIRMED REF TEL INFO ON PORTUGAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO FRANCE JUNE 4-7. SHE ADDED THAT GOF HAD BEEN HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SILVA LOPEZ AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR IMMIGRATION COELHO. SHE INDICATED THAT THIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WAS SHARED BY PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHO HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MARIO SOARES AT THE TIME OF THE LATTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDING DEBENEST, THESE PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS CAME ACROSS AS SERIOUS' IMPRESSIVE, DETERMINED AND WELL MOTIVATED, WITH NO TRACE OF ADVENTURISM OR RADICALISM. SHE ESPECIALLY PRAISED ANTUNES AS INTELLIGENT, OF STATESMAN-LIKE STATURE AND WELL AWARE OF DANGERS GOP FACES; PARIS ALSO BELIEVES HE HAS INFLUENCE WITHIN AFM.

2. FRENCH WERE IMPRESSED THAT THESE PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS NEVER DESCRIBED GOP AS NON-ALIGNED, ALTHOUGH THEY ASCRIBED TO THEMSELVES A THIRD WORLD ROLE; THEY STRESSED THEIR EUROPEAN ALLEGIANCE AND SUPPORT FOR UNITED EUROPE. THE PORTUGUESE PROMISED EARLY ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS COVERING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN PORTUGAL. FRENCH WERE, OF COURSE, PARTICULARLY DELIGHTED WHEN COSTA GOMEZ AND ANTUNES CONCLUDED THAT LISBON FULLY SHARES PARIS' FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS.

3. DEBENEST SAID FRANCE REMAINS REALISTIC AND REALIZES ITS RECENT VISITORS FACE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING THEIR COMMENDABLE AIMS. HENCE, OVERALL GOF CONCLUSION IS NEITHER PESSIMISTIC NOR OPTIMISTIC. IN ANY CASE, FRANCE HAS NOT WRITTEN OFF PORTUGAL. COMMENTING PRIVATELY ON PRESS SPECULATION THAT PORTUGUESE HEADLONG FLIGHT TOWARDS COMMUNISM WILL BE USEFUL VACCINATION AGAINST SIMILAR TRENDS IN SPAIN, ITALY AND FRANCE, DEBENEST SUGGESTED THAT COMMUNIST PORTUGAL MIGHT BE MORE OF A VIRUS THAN AN

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 15324 131754Z

IMMUNIZATION.

4. DEBENEST ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO GISCARD'S FINAL TOAST TO COSTA GOMEZ WHICH INCLUDED PHRASE TO THE EFFECT THAT "WE HAVE DRAWN THE CONCLUSION WHICH YOU DESIRED." SHE CAUTIONED US NOT TO ATTEMPT INTERPRETING THIS IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC GOF ACTION BILATERALLY OR THROUGH EC; SHE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTS POSITIVE EVOLUTION

IN FRENCH POSITION ON AID TO PORTUGAL BUT WARNED THAT
THIS MIGHT BE SLOW.
RUSH

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